

APPROVED: Meeting No. 28-93

ATTEST: *Paula S. Jewell*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 27-93

July 19, 1993

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Public Hearing in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on July 19, 1993, at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Douglas M. Duncan

Councilmember James F. Coyle

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

ABSENT

Councilmember Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember Dave Robbins

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer, City Clerk Paula Jewell and Assistant City Attorney Sondra Block.

Re: Public Hearing: Text Amendment
Application T-134-93, Paul D.
Haines, Applicant.

This application requests amendment to the Zoning Ordinance so as to allow covered steps, stoops and porches to encroach up to four feet into minimum side setback space.

The Mayor and Council conducted a public hearing on Text Amendment Application T-134-93, Paul D. Haines, Applicant, requesting amendment to the Zoning Ordinance so as to allow covered steps, stoops and porches to encroach up to four feet into minimum side setback space. The

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Mayor and Council heard all those persons as can be found in the official stenographic transcript.

There being no other persons wishing to be heard, the Mayor declared the hearing closed, with the record to be left open for two weeks, until the close of business on August 2, 1993.

Re: Citizens Forum - This time is set aside to hear from any citizen who wishes to address the Mayor and Council.

1. Earl F. Moore, Committee Member, Lincoln Park Community Center Advisory Subcommittee invited the Mayor and Council to attend a public forum on August 11, 1993 at the Lincoln Park Recreation Center Gym, at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Moore requested the City's attendance in order to hear some of the issues related to the alcohol ban that was in place at Lincoln Park Community Center. Mr. Moore said the forum would allow the community to express their opinions and get a broader and more representative reading of what the area residents and Center users really wanted.

Mayor Duncan commented that staff would be present and possibly members of the Mayor and Council would attend.

Councilmember Coyle asked that staff make available for the Mayor and Council, the official record on this issue. Mayor Duncan added that it would be helpful for someone on City staff to present history and some background about the policy.

2. Dick Haight, former Rockville City Councilmember, commented on the July 12th Council meeting that he had recently watched on Rockville Cable 53. Mr. Haight said the comments made by Steven Bradbard and Richard Thorp were, in his opinion, completely out of place and totally untrue. He said he knew Mayor Duncan and he recalled one incident in particular where the Mayor distanced himself from a deplorable situation when his withdrawal could have cost him the

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election. Mr. Haight gave some history of the mall's inception and said that what was dumped on this Mayor and Council was an atrocity. Mr. Haight commented that everyone who had touched the mall had been burned and he was delighted when he heard it was going to be torn down. He said the Mayor and Council made a tremendous mistake in passing the resolution to enter into an agreement with RCI to develop large structures; he said the City could not do well by developing large structures and parking garages, and if the City did, they would end up in the same situation. He encouraged the Mayor and Council to put the area back to the condition it was during 1960. Mr. Haight said that when 51 Monroe Street and the Courthouse were built, this diminished the mall because it could then not be easily seen. In reference to the current mall tenants' comments made last week, Mr. Haight said he did not have sympathy for anyone who opened up a business in a dead area. He suggested that the Mayor and Council reconnect Montgomery Avenue to Rockville Pike and Jefferson Street to Jefferson Street. He said the property ought to be taken back down to a vacant lot and then slowly, carefully and thoughtfully rebuilt and he stressed that the mall be torn down and the City restore it to what existed before. Mr. Haight also said he was incensed by the individuals who blamed the current Mayor and Council for this issue and he said that the names called by those opponents were terribly inappropriate.

Mayor Duncan commented that the initial plan proposed was to build the garage underneath and that plan had since changed. He said the plan was now to get rid of everything and then to rebuild step by step, and the preferred plan was to build parking on each block as needed. Mayor Duncan also said there was a real concern with the tenants; the RCI developers had been asked to work with the tenants and he said that this was taking place.

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Councilmember Coyle remarked that he was not present last week but he had heard about the hits that were taken by the Mayor and Council.

3. Bill Meyer, 804 Leverton Road noted that the children in the Beall Elementary School district would be one of three county school areas to participate in the State of Maryland early head start education program. He noted the cut-off date for signing up was August 18th, 1993 and he asked that the City help publicize the program.

Re: FYI/Correspondence

1. Mayor Duncan asked that City staff invite the Woodley Gardens Civic Association to be part of the formation of a park/woods committee to work with College Gardens.

2. Councilmember Coyle inquired about the STEP Program beginning this Fall at Fallsmead Elementary School. City Manager Romer responded that steps have been taken to initiate morning programs which would cover different schedules in the morning to provide an extra block of time to provide care for children affected by the new early hours.

3. Councilmember Coyle congratulated staff for facilitating pedestrian improvements for the Town Center "mixing bowl" area.

Re: Correspondence

Councilmember Marrinan acknowledged with appreciation the comments received from William Fergusson, expressing the business community's full support of a new vision for downtown Rockville.

Re: New Business

1. Councilmember Coyle commented that several people had expressed concerns about the trees along Wootton Parkway which were starting to fade with the dry weather. Mr. Romer noted

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that it was unfortunate that there were a number of setbacks in this area; there was a normal loss that always resulted with a massive planting, the weather had been difficult, and there had been some theft of the plantings. Mr. Romer said that staff was very sensitive to this and would be following up accordingly.

2. Councilmember Coyle said that cutting back of trees needed to take place at the corner of Watts Branch and Hurley. He also noted that visibility was poor, coming off of Route 270 towards the signal at Route 28 towards Town Center; he asked if the State could be requested to cut some of the foliage back.

3. Mayor Duncan requested that staff announce the formation of a committee to propose recommendations for the expansion of Courthouse Square. He asked that representatives from the City's Historic District Commission, the College Gardens area, the Victoria, Americana Centre, Peerless Rockville and the Town Center Business Association, be included on the committee.

Re: Next Meeting

There will be a General Session held on July 26, 1993 at 7:30 p.m. The Planning Commission would be presenting the Master Plan to the Mayor and Council and there would be a report from the Solid Waste Disposal Task Force.

Re: Adjournment

Upon motion by Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the Mayor and Council adjourned at 8:15 p.m. to reconvene in General Session on July 26, 1993 or upon the call of the Mayor.